

REMARKS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/525,543, filed March 14, 2000. A Notice of Allowance was issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with U.S. Serial No. 09/525,543 on September 9, 2003. The issue fee was paid on December 4, 2003 and the patent has not yet been issued. Accordingly, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/525,543 is pending today and the subject divisional application is co-pending therewith for the purposes of 35 U.S.C. §120.

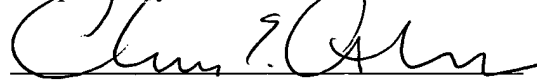
By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1-7 without prejudice, adds new claims 8-16, amends the Specification, Drawings and Detailed Description of the Invention to correspond with those Amendments made in connection with U.S. Patent Application No. 09/525,543.

Applicant respectfully submits that this Preliminary Amendment is formalistic only and adds no new matter and requests that these amendments be entered prior to examination.

No fees are believed to be owed in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees now or hereafter due to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable action in the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven B. Pokotilow
Registration No. 26,405
Attorneys for Applicants
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
180 Maiden Lane
New York, NY 10038
(212) 806-5400